

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior

§ 170.166

(g) The Committee's budget will be funded through the IRR Program management and oversight funds, not to exceed \$150,000 annually.

INDIAN LOCAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

§ 170.161 What is the Indian Local Technical Assistance Program?

The Indian Local Technical Assistance Program (Indian LTAP) is authorized under 23 U.S.C. 504(b), and §§ 170.161 through 170.176 are provided for information only. The Program assists tribal governments and other IRR Program participants in extending their technical capabilities by providing them greater access to transportation technology, training, and research opportunities.

§ 170.162 How is the Indian LTAP funded?

FHWA uses Highway Trust Funds to fund the Indian LTAP. BIA may use IRR Program management and oversight funds for Indian LTAP centers. These funds may be used to operate Indian LTAP centers and to develop training materials and products for these centers. The Indian LTAP centers should apply for supplemental funding from other sources to accommodate their needs.

§ 170.163 How are Indian LTAP recipients selected?

(a) FHWA announces Indian LTAP grant, cooperative agreement, and contracting opportunities in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The announcements state that tribal governments, a consortium of tribal governments, State transportation departments, or universities are eligible for these awards; indicate the funds available; and provide eligibility criteria.

(b) FHWA sends the information in paragraph (a) of this section to BIA for distribution to tribal governments and consortia. BIA must provide written notice to tribal governments and consortia.

(c) A selection committee of Federal and tribal representatives (see § 170.164) reviews the proposals of eligible applicants and recommends award recipients. FHWA selects and notifies award

recipients consistent with applicable law.

§ 170.164 How are tribal representatives nominated and chosen for the selection committee?

In its written notice to tribal governments announcing opportunities under the Indian LTAP, FHWA requests nominations within each Indian LTAP's service area for representatives to serve on the selection committee. Forty-five days after receiving the request for nominations, FHWA will notify tribal governments of the nominees for the service area. Each tribe then has 30 days to notify FHWA of its selection from the nominees.

§ 170.165 May a tribe enter into a contract or agreement for Indian LTAP funds?

Yes. If selected for an award as an Indian LTAP Center, a tribe will enter into a cooperative agreement with the FHWA and be subject to the guidelines of the agreement.

§ 170.166 What services do Indian LTAP centers provide?

(a) Indian LTAP centers provide transportation technology transfer services, including education, training, technical assistance and related support services to tribal governments and IRR Program participants. Indian LTAPs will:

- (1) Develop and expand tribal expertise in road and transportation areas;
- (2) Improve IRR Program performance;
- (3) Enhance tribal transportation planning, project selection, transit and freight programs;
- (4) Develop transportation training and technical resource materials and present workshops;
- (5) Improve tribal tourism and recreational travel programs;
- (6) Help tribes deal more effectively with transportation-related problems by developing and sharing tribal transportation technology and traffic safety systems and information with other transportation agencies;
- (7) Operate Indian technical centers in cooperation with State transportation departments and universities;
- (8) Provide technical assistance on transportation technology and enhance

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new technology implementation in cooperation with the private sector;

(9) Develop educational programs to encourage and motivate interest in transportation careers among Native American students; and

(10) Act as information clearing-houses for tribal governments and Indian-owned businesses on transportation-related topics.

(b) Unless otherwise stated in an Indian LTAP agreement, an Indian technical assistance program center must, at a minimum:

(1) Maintain a current mailing list including, at a minimum, each tribe and IRR Program participant within the service area;

(2) Publish a quarterly newsletter and maintain a Web site;

(3) Conduct or coordinate 10 workshops per year;

(4) Maintain a library of technical publications and video tapes;

(5) Provide technical assistance to IRR Program participants;

(6) Hold two advisory committee meetings a year;

(7) Develop a yearly action plan in consultation with the advisory committee;

(8) Coordinate with State LTAPs, other Indian technical centers, Rural Technical Assistance Program (RTAP) centers, tribal governments, and local planning and transportation agencies to share and exchange publications, videotapes, training material, and conduct joint workshops;

(9) Consult with tribes and IRR Program participants concerning technical assistance and training desired; and

(10) Prepare an annual report and distribute this report to service area tribes.

§ 170.167 How does a tribe obtain services from an Indian LTAP center?

A tribe that wants to obtain services should contact the Indian LTAP center serving its service area or its BIA regional road engineer. Information about the centers and the services provided can be found on the World Wide Web at the following address: <http://www.ltap.org>.

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§ 170.168 Do Indian LTAP centers offer services similar to those of State LTAPs?

Yes. However, Indian LTAP centers are primarily responsible for increasing the capacity of tribal governments to administer transportation programs. State LTAPs also provide services to local and rural governments, including tribal governments. Indian LTAP centers should coordinate education and training opportunities with State LTAP centers to maximize resources.

§ 170.169 What can a tribe do if Indian LTAP services are unsatisfactory?

A tribal government can address concerns over quality of services to the Indian LTAP Center Director, FHWA, and BIA. If the center does not adequately address these concerns in writing within 30 calendar days, the tribal government may request any or all of the following:

(a) A special meeting with the Center's Director and staff to address the concern;

(b) A review of the Center's performance by FHWA and BIA or;

(c) Services from other Indian LTAP centers.

§ 170.170 How are Indian LTAP centers managed?

(a) Each Indian LTAP center is managed by its Center Director and staff, with the advice of its technical panel under the Indian LTAP agreements. FHWA, BIA, and tribes review the performance of the Indian LTAP centers.

(b) Each Indian LTAP center has a technical panel consisting of one BIA Regional Road Engineer, one FHWA representative, one state DOT representative, and at least five tribal representatives from the service area. The technical panel may, among other activities:

(1) Recommend center policies;

(2) Review and approve the annual action plan for submission to FHWA for approval;

(3) Provide direction on the areas of technical assistance and training;

(4) Review and approve the annual report for submission to FHWA for approval;